

PANEL A: PROTECTING, RESTORING, AND ENHANCING THE DELTA ECOSYSTEM

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Priority One: Manage The Delta Politically, Legally and Financially As One Ecosystem

- Manage the Delta as an eco-region: administer the Delta as a single federal and state special designation unit that allows for multiple uses but facilitates a coordinated and comprehensive management approach.
- Set recuperation goals for the patient: establish clear targets that define desired ecological outcomes in terms of species viability (abundance, distribution, productivity, and diversity of indicator species) and ecosystem function (simulation of natural hydrographs and habitat mosaics, diversity of habitat types and gradients, habitat patch size and connectivity) and construct an optimized habitat map and hydrograph to meet these targets.
- Bring the check before the meal is served: create a revenue stream through a mix of sources (volumetric water use fees, recreation visitor fees, revenue bonds) to fully fund Delta management and oversight activities.

Priority Two: Restore Delta Flows Like You Really Mean It (Flow + Landform = Delta Restoration, Part 1]

- Don't punt on the \$64,000 question: Acknowledge that flow is one of the single most critical drivers of ecological conditions in the Delta – and set enforceable flow targets accordingly to re-establish a more natural hydrograph with large-scale improvements in both the timing and amount of Delta inflow, outflow and channel flow.
- Share the satisfaction of restoring the Delta: require non-project water users and non-export federal and state contractors to contribute equitably to meeting improved Delta flow targets.
- Integrate landform changes with flow improvements: expand floodplain and flood bypass capacity to maximize habitat benefits from improved flow conditions.

Priority Three: Redesign The Delta To Mimic 19th Century Function In A 21st Century World (Flow + Landform = Delta Restoration, Part 2]

- Don't think small: restore large, connected habitat patches with a high diversity of habitat type and altitudinal gradient.
- Don't put your eggs in one basket: restore large, diverse, connected blocs of habitat in a number of different Delta sub-regions.
- Prevent the inland sea scenario: pursue an aggressive mix of subsidence reversal and control actions (vegetation management, fill, cross levees, island flooding) to prevent catastrophic loss of central and western Delta islands.

Priority Four: Dramatically Reduce Exporter Reliance On The Delta

- Focus on the ends, not the means: using an AB 32 carbon reduction approach, set enforceable, ambitious targets for phased reduction of exports from the Delta that allow flexible implementation to address regional variations and preferences.
- Put teeth into meeting the targets: condition permit approvals, public investments in water projects, and other water management decisions on compliance with these targets.
- Make the Delta a lifeline, not an addiction: design Delta conveyance changes to ensure that critical public health and drinking water supplies are safe from disruption, not to serve as primary sources of water supply in exporting areas.